

REMARKS

Objections regarding drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings insofar as the drawings do not show “the plurality of positioning plates being distributed in rows parallel to the straight line.” Without prejudice, Applicant has amended independent claims 10, 12, and 14 to remove this subject matter. Applicant requests the entry of this amendment, even responsive to a final office action response, because entry of the amendment places the patent application in better condition for allowance, and does not require further search or consideration by the Examiner, insofar as the Examiner has already allowed claims 12-18.

Claims 10-11, 13, and 16-18

Claim 10 is an independent claim, from which claims 11, 13, and 16-18 ultimately depend. Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2003-89195. Claims 13 and 16-18 have been allowed.

Applicant presumes that the Examiner intended to object to claims 13 and 16-18 as containing allowable subject matter, but which depend from a rejected base independent claim, insofar as claims 13 and 16-18 are not properly allowable because they do depend from a rejected base independent claim. On this basis, then, Applicant has amended claim 10 to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 13, and has cancelled claim 13. The entry of this amendment is proper, because it places the patent application in better condition for allowance, and does not require further search or consideration by the Examiner, insofar as the Examiner has already allowed claim 13 in particular.

As such, claim 10, and claims 11 and 16-18 that depend therefrom, are allowable, because independent claim 10 recites the subject matter of claim 13 that the Examiner has indicated is allowable.

Claims 12 and 14-15

Claims 12 and 14-15 have been (properly) allowed.

First named inventor: Matsumoto
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Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Dryja", written over a horizontal line.

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Date

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